

Boston, April 20, '40.

My dear friend:

I have been trying ever since the reception of yours of the 22d ult., to find time to pen a reply; but the multiplicity of my cares and labors has prevented. Since the commencement of this year I have ^{had} an unusual amount of labor and responsibility continually pressing upon me, and with such force, that my health has been somewhat impaired. I am now, however, acquiring my accustomed vigor and elasticity, and hope soon to be "myself again." I seize the pen now, in the greatest haste, to beg of you, by your love for the anti-slavery cause, and your regard for its integrity and vitality, to be at the coming anniversary in New York. My dear brother, I have not time to press in detail the arguments which, if I could see you face to face, I should urge upon ^{you} with great earnestness, to induce you to be present at the meeting referred to. Rely upon it, a battle is to be fought, such as has never before taken place in our ranks; a battle between the combined powers of sectarian bigotry and hatred on the one side, and genuine abolitionism on the other. Come, I beseech

you, at whatever sacrifice, if the state of
your health does not imperiously forbid;
and not only come yourself, but bring with
you some of your dear family as well as other
true and choice spirits. Great anxiety is
felt here on the subject, lest the hardness
of the times should keep so many of our
friends at home as to give an easy victory
to the wrong side. I am sure, dear brother,
that your heart will say with mine, This
must not, it shall not be, if any sacrifice
which I can make can prevent it. It is my
solus conviction, that, if the journey should
make it impracticable for you to give a single
cent to the cause, ^{in any other way,} for a whole year to
come, you had better go by all means;
and this is the feeling which prevails
among all our well-informed and sa-
gacious friends in this quarter. It is of
the utmost importance that Massachusetts
should not be left to fight the battle alone,
thus giving the enemy occasion to say that
it is a merely local controversy, in which
the mass of abolitionists in other States
feel little or no interest. No stone will be
left unturned to induce the clergy and their
blinded followers in Vermont to rally at the
meeting; and hence it is ~~of~~ doubly im-

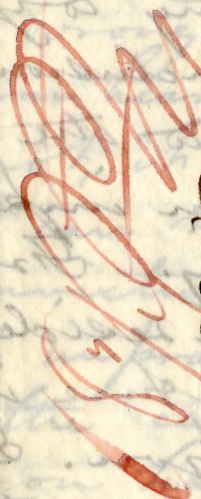
portant that you, and others who are
true, should make your appearance on the
field.

I wish I had time and room in this
letter to answer your inquiries respecting the
secret history of the new organization. But it
is now wholly out of my power. If you
will meet me in New York, I will en-
deavor to explain every thing to you.

Again I say, as the conclusion of this
hastily written letter, come to the annual
meeting. Let nothing but an imperious
sense of duty keep you away. Friend Gar-
rison (in whose family we have resided for the
past 6 months) joins Mary Anne in wishing
to be kindly remembered to you. To Rachel
and Ann, to your father and mother, to
Mary Byrd and the dear children we
send warm salutations.

Yours affectionately,
Oliver Johnson.

R. T. Robinson.


Rowland T. Robinson,
North Ferrisburgh,
Vt.

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